

a3 - information describing the destination of said dispatch,
and wherein at least said information element a2 is provided in a manner that is resistant to or
indicative of tampering by either of said sender and said recipient; and

an authenticator functioning as a non-interested third party with respect to the sender
and the receiver and having

(1) means for associating said dispatch-related information with said element a1 by
generating authentication-information comprising a representation of at least said elements
a1, a2 and a3, said representation comprising a set of one or more elements, each comprising
a representation of one or more elements of said set A; and

(2) means for securing at least part of said authentication-information against
tampering of said sender and recipient.

149. (Twice Amended) An information dispatch system in an electronic
communication network comprising;

a source transmitting system coupled to the electronic communicating network for
sending a dispatch from a sender to a recipient;

a destination receiving system coupled to the electronic communication network for
receiving the dispatch for the recipient; and

an authenticator functioning as a non-interested third party with respect to the sender and the
recipient for authenticating the dispatch and contents of the dispatch transmitted from the
source transmitting system to the destination receiving system, including:

(1) an input unit coupled to the communication network or to the source transmitting
system for receiving content data representative of the contents of the dispatch being
electronically transmitted to said destination receiving system, and a destination of the
dispatch;

(2) means for providing an indicia relating to a time of transmission of the dispatch, said time related indicia being provided in a manner resistant to or indicative of tampering by either of the sender and the recipient;

(3) a processor for associating the content data with dispatch record data which includes at least said time related indicia and an indicia relating to the destination of the dispatch, to generate authentication data which authenticate the dispatch and the contents of the dispatch; and

(4) means for securing at least part of the authentication data against tampering of the sender and the recipient.

REMARKS

The Office Action which was made final and to which this Request for Reconsideration is responsive has been carefully considered along with the references cited therein. As discussed below, applicants respectfully request that the finality of the Action be withdrawn. Moreover, it is submitted that the application should be allowable, and reconsideration of the rejections in the Action is respectfully requested. In the case that the finality of the Action and the rejections are maintained, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered to put the application in better form for appeal.

Turning first to the finality of the Action, applicants believe that the Action should not have been made final because (1) applicants' amendments did not necessitate a new ground of rejection, and (2) the grounds of the rejections have not been fully developed, and as a result the prosecution of the application was prematurely cut off. These two reasons will be explained in detail below in connection with a review of the rejections. As to the second reason, applicants note that MPEP § 706.07 states:

The applicant who is seeking to define his or her invention in claims that will give him or her the patent protection to which he or she is entitled should receive the cooperation of the Examiner to the end, and not be prematurely cut off in the prosecution of the his or her application. ...